



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5395

LCO No. 1878



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

AN ACT CONCERNING AGING IN PLACE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For the purposes described in
2 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
3 the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
4 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
5 the aggregate five million dollars.

6 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
7 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
8 Department of Rehabilitation Services for the purpose of administering
9 a grant program to provide assistance to eligible persons for home
10 modifications and assistive technology devices necessary for such
11 persons to remain in a home setting of their choice.

12 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
13 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
14 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
15 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission

16 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
17 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
18 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
19 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
20 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
21 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
22 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
23 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
24 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
25 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
26 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
27 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
28 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
29 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
30 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
31 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
32 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
33 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
34 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
35 due.

36 (d) Any funds available through the program established pursuant
37 to this section shall be expended only for grants and administrative
38 costs and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

39 Sec. 2. Section 17b-607 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
40 is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

41 (NEW) (d) On and after July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of
42 Rehabilitation Services is authorized to establish and administer a
43 grant fund for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible persons
44 to undertake home modifications and acquire assistive technology
45 devices necessary to allow such persons to live independently in a
46 home setting. For the purposes of this section and section 1 of this act,
47 "eligible persons" means persons age sixty-five and older or persons

48 with disabilities (1) who are at risk of losing the ability to live
49 independently at home without such modifications or devices in the
50 judgment of an assistive technology professional rehabilitation
51 engineer or a certified aging-in- place specialist, and (2) whose income
52 does not exceed four hundred per cent of the federal poverty level.

53 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The sum of one million
54 dollars is appropriated to the Commission on Aging, from the General
55 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, for a matching grant
56 program that will provide assistance to municipalities and nonprofit
57 organizations engaged in initiatives designed to allow elderly persons
58 and adults under the age of sixty-five with disabilities to age in place
59 and to remain in a home setting of their choice. Such initiatives shall
60 include, but not be limited to: (1) Affordable and accessible housing,
61 (2) community and social services, (3) planning and zoning regulations
62 that permit homesharing and accessory apartments for elderly persons
63 and adults with disabilities, and (4) transportation-related
64 infrastructure that provides ease of access to elderly persons and
65 persons with disabilities.

66 (b) Each municipality or nonprofit organization applying for such
67 grant funds shall provide a fifty per cent match to such funds. The
68 Commission on Aging shall disburse grant funds in amounts not
69 exceeding one hundred thousand dollars such that no one region of
70 the state receives a disproportionate amount of such funds, provided
71 municipalities from throughout the state apply for such funds. In
72 considering applications from the same geographical region of the
73 state which equally satisfy eligibility criteria, the commission shall give
74 priority to applications from municipalities with population
75 percentages of persons age sixty-five and older and persons with
76 disabilities that exceed the state's total population percentages of such
77 persons, as defined in the most recent federal decennial census or in
78 estimates provided in the five-year interim by the Office of Policy and
79 Management.

80 (c) A municipality or nonprofit organization, receiving a grant
81 pursuant to this section, shall annually submit to the Commission on
82 Aging, on forms provided by said commission, the following data on
83 programs funded by such grants: (1) The number of elderly persons
84 and persons with disabilities assisted under the program; (2) the
85 number of home accessory apartments or shared homes approved
86 under the program; (3) the number and type of transportation services
87 or options added; (4) the number and type of community and social
88 services added or expanded; (5) a budget detailing municipal
89 expenditures on such programs; and (6) any other information
90 determined to be necessary by the commission.

91 Sec. 4. Section 17b-420a of the 2014 supplement to the general
92 statutes is amended by adding subsection (f) as follows (*Effective July 1,*
93 *2014*):

94 (NEW) (f) Not later than January 1, 2015, the Commission on Aging,
95 as part of the livable community initiative established pursuant to this
96 section, shall recognize communities that have implemented livable
97 community initiatives allowing individuals to age in place and to
98 remain in the home setting of their choice. Such initiatives shall
99 include, but not be limited to: (1) Affordable and accessible housing,
100 (2) community and social services, (3) planning and zoning
101 regulations, (4) walkability, and (5) transportation related
102 infrastructure.

103 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Department on Aging and
104 the Department of Social Services shall hold quarterly meetings with
105 nutrition service and food security stakeholders to develop
106 recommendations to address complexities in nutrition services
107 administrative processes, establish quality control benchmarks and
108 help move toward greater quality, efficiency and transparency in the
109 elderly nutrition program. Stakeholders shall include, but not be
110 limited to: Area agencies on aging, access agencies, the Commission on
111 Aging, nutrition providers, representatives of food security programs

112 and contractors, nutrition site coordinators, and consumers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-607
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-420a
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To assist elderly persons and persons with disabilities to live at home longer.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]